

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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TAGS: PFOR CY US

SUBJECT: WATERGATE REACTION

1. MAY 7 PRESS ATTENTION INDICATES DAILY FLOW NEW WIRE SERVICE STORIES MAY BREACH PAROCHIAL CYPRIOT INDIFFERENCE TO RUNNING WATERGATE STORY. COVERAGE HERETOFORE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY SPOTTIER WITH ONLY U. S.- BAITING RIGHT WING AND LEFTIST DAILIES GIVING STORY PROMINENT TREATMENT. MOST EDITORS ESCHIEW DISTORTING HEADLINES AND LOCAL ELECTRONIC MEDIA PROVIDING STRAIGHTFORWARD FACTUAL COVERAGE.

2. MAY 7 CONSERVATIVE SYNAGERMOS, FIRST NON- COMMUNIST JOURNAL TO EDITORIALIZE, PRAISES PRESIDENT FOR ORDERING FULL INVESTIGATION AND SEES SUBSEQUENT RESIGNATIONS AS INTENDED TO FACILITATE INQUIRY. " THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY MEANS," SYNAGERMOS CONCLUDES.

3. ONLY PREVIOUS EDITORIAL APPEARED MAY 3 PRO- MOSCOW HARAVGHI WHICH DEPLORED " SECRET TYRANTS" AND QUESTIONED POSSIBILITY OF THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF ADMINISTRATION BY ITSELF. INTERESTING TO NOTE HOWEVER THAT EVEN COMMUNIST PRESS HAS NOT EMBARKED ON SYSTEMATIC AND INTENSIVE EXPLOITATION OF STORY ALTHOUGH IMPOSSIBLE DETERMIN WHETHER THIS AVOIDANCE REFLECTS INSTRUCTIONS (POSSIBLE) OR MORE LIKELY EDITORIAL INABILITY SUCCINCTLY DEAL WITH

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STORY' S INCREASING COMPLEXITY.

4. TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE NEGLIGIBLE.

5. DIPLOMATIC AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS HAVE SHOWN MORE INTEREST IN WATERGATE SCANDAL THAN IN ANY RECENT AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT NOT DIRECTLY AFFECCIALS. WE PLAN TO ACCOMPNAV CROSSAN AND WORK CLOSELY WITH HIM IN THESE STEPS, WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE PRECEDENT- SETTING SINCE DOW' S IS FIRST (AND ONLY, SO FAR AS WE KNOW) APPLICATION FROM WESTERN FIRM FOR COMMERCIAL OFFICE TO BE SUBMITTED TO AND APPROVED BY GOP.

3. AS RESULT OF EMBOFF' S LENGTHY, INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH KEY MFT OFFICIAL ON APRIL 27, HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT AT ALL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PRESENT PROSPECTS FOR APPROVAL OF THE THREE CURRENTLY PENDING APPLICATIONS FOR TECHNICAL OFFICES. THESE ARE FROM SINGER, IBM, AND HEWLETT- PACKARD. (A FOURTH APPLICATION, FROM ONSANTO, IS BEING REVISED BY THE COMPANY PRIOR TO RESUBMISSION). IBM WAS INFORMED IN ERROR LAST WEEK BY MFT THAT APPLICATION APPROVED WHEN, IN FACT, IT HAS NOT BEEN. ACCORDING TO MFT SOURCE, PROSPECTS ARE " QUESTIONABLE" AT PRESENT FOR APPROVAL OF SINGER AND HEWLETT- PACKARD' S APPLICATIONS, PARTICULARLY SINCE POLISH FTOS AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS SEEM UNWILLING OR UNINTERESTED IN GIVING THEIR APPROVAL AND WERE QUESTIONING WHY THESE COMPANIES SHOULD HAVE LOCAL OFFICES. EMBOFF EXPRESSED AMAZEMENT, SINCE THESE BOTH ARE MAJOR U. S. FIRMS WITH EXISTING BUSINESS AND FIRM PROSPECTS FOR INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION DEALS WITH POLAND. MFT SOURCE ALSO SAID STATEMENT MADE BY STRUS DURING MARCH WORKING GROUP SESSION THAT IT WAS PREFERABLE FROM GOP STANDPOINT, BUT NOT REQUIRED, THAT COMPANIES HAVING TECHNICAL OFFICES ALSO HAVE CONTRACTS WITH POLISH COMMERCIAL AGENCY FIRMS, WENT WELL BEYOND STRUS' INSTRUCTIONS. SOURCE INDICATED THAT THERE WAS SERIOUS CONCERN WITHIN SOME ECHELONS OF POLISH BUREAUCRACY ABOUT ABILITY TO " SUPERVISE" TECHNICAL OFFICES OF U. S. COMPANIES WHICH WOULD NOT ALSO HAVE POLISH AGENCY REPRESENTATION, AND THAT THIS WAS ANOTHER FACTOR HOLDING UP APPROVALS. HE CLAIMED PRACTICALLY ALL WESTERN TECHNICAL OFFICES HERE NOW HAVE AGENCY AGREEMENTS. IN RESPONSE, EMBASSY OFFICER SAID HE WAS MOST DISMAYED BY THIS

MOREOVER, HE SAID THAT, GIVEN GOOD NEWS ON DOW EARLIER IN THE WEEK, HE HAD BEEN PREPARED TO RECOMMEND THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WASHINGTON PROCEED WITH U. S. RESPONSE ON POLISH SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE. HOWEVER, THIS DISCOURAGING REPORT ON STATUS OF APPLICATIONS FOR TECHNICAL OFFICES, WHICH

APPEARED TO BE MEANS OF REPRESENTATION PREFERRED BY U. S. FIRMS AT PRESENT, HAD CAUSED HIM TO RECONSIDER. MFT OFFICIAL SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO BREAK LOOSE ONE OR MORE APPLICATIONS IN NEAREST FUTURE, NOTING THAT IMPENDING CHANGE IN MINISTRY AT VICE MINISTERIAL LEVEL MIGHT HELP SITUATION.

4. RECOMMENDATION: IN VIEW OF PRECEDING, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT, DESPITE GOP APPROVAL OF DOW APPLICATION, DEPARTMENT NOT RPT NOT RESPOND TO IMPLEMENT OUR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON POLISH CHAMBER OFFICE IN SAN FRANCISCO UNTIL WE ARE SATISFIED THAT POLES WILL CARRY OUT THEIR PART OF THE AGREEMENT TO OUR SATISFACTION. WE NOTE IN THIS CONTEXT THAT BUMAR HAS ALREADY MOVED AT LEAST ONE MAN TO CHICAGO TO OPEN ITS OFFICE THERE AND OTHERS PLAN TO FOLLOW SOON. DAVIES

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